

Votes to Pass Three Bills as Part of "Make it in America" Initiative

Washington, DC - "Make it in America" - that's the message Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) delivered today after voting to pass three bills designed to boost the U.S. manufacturing industry, reduce the U.S. trade deficit and increase exports of clean energy technology by as much as \$40 billion per year.

"Over the course of the Bush administration our manufacturing base continued to deteriorate, and we lost 4.6 million manufacturing jobs as a result," said Hinchey. "If we're going to create the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future, we have to promote American competitiveness, innovation and increase our exports. The bills I voted to pass in the House today will help set us on a path towards doing exactly that in New York and across the country."

The National Manufacturing Strategy Act, H.R. 4692, requires a comprehensive analysis of the nation's manufacturing sector every four years and directs the president to submit to Congress a National Manufacturing Strategy, which identifies goals and recommendations for how the federal government, working with state, local and private institutions, can best support the growth of U.S. manufacturers.

The End the Trade Deficit Act, H.R. 1875, establishes an "Emergency Trade Deficit Commission" to examine the nature, causes and consequences of the U.S. trade deficit and make recommendations on reducing trade imbalances.

The Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act, H.R. 5156, helps American businesses to export clean energy technology products and services by implementing a National Clean Energy Technology Export Strategy and by providing information needed to navigate foreign markets.

"We are already starting to see a growing clean energy industry throughout New York, and we will see even more jobs created if we capitalize on the huge export potential for manufacturers of solar panels and other green energy technologies," said Hinchey. "The Department of Energy has estimated that with the right strategy in place, the United States could increase clean

energy exports by as much as \$40 billion per year, and that could create more than 750,000 jobs over the next ten years."

Earlier this week, Hinchey visited Tech City in Ulster, NY where Solartech Renewables is producing the first high-volume, commercial solar panels made by a U.S.-owned company in the eastern United States. In March, Solartech Renewables announced its move to Tech City as a result of incentives provided by The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) with Hinchey's support. In 2007, Hinchey worked to establish TSEC, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, to drive the creation of a solar energy cluster in New York by connecting local universities and companies to help overcome technological, strategic and economic challenges.

Hinchey, who has opposed unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) because they caused the exportation of U.S. jobs out of the country, is a cosponsor of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which would require a comprehensive review of major trade agreements on the books, ensure that environmental labor and human rights standards are addressed in future agreements, and give Congress the authority it needs to assert its proper constitutional role in the trade negotiating process by significantly limiting future fast-track authority.

"One of the most important things we've got to do in order to establish a fair playing field for U.S. manufacturers is to revisit some of the unfair trade deals, which do not include basic labor and environmental standards," said Hinchey. "We've also got to ensure that other countries, like China, aren't manipulating the value of their currency in order to boost their own manufacturing industry at the expense of our own."

Hinchey is working to end currency manipulation by China. He recently signed a letter to Treasury Secretary Geithner and Commerce Secretary Locke, expressing serious concerns about Chinese currency manipulation. The Congressman has also called for the application of a countervailing duty and for the Department of Treasury to include China in its biannual agency report on currency manipulation.